

Dear Ms. Funaro,

Though I live in Oak Park, Illinois, I write today as an advocate for my uncle and my second cousin, both of whom have Down syndrome, and both of whom live in Iowa, regarding four of the selected companies being considered to run the managed care program in Iowa who have fraud and mismanagement in their history. Turning these services over to private, for-profit companies when Iowa already has among the lowest provider rates in the country, let alone to private companies with histories of fraud and mismanagement, rather than keep the current management by state workers, is a major mistake. Moreover, it will cost more to do so - the private companies would get 15% of tax payer money for administrative fees, while state workers have around 3% administrative costs. This plan, then, will not only harm the 560,000 Iowa Medicaid recipients, including two of my relatives, but also taxpayers more generally. There are many services that should not be handled in the private, for-profit realm; this is certainly one of them.

Sincerely,

Sarah B. Rodriguez
229 N Taylor
Oak Park, IL 60302